

The cost of this project will vary based on the number of locations available to site the water tanks, land costs, number of tanks, and tank costs. Original estimates were in the neighborhood of \$8,000 per tank, which would bring the total project cost to **\$80,000**. Yuba County has expressed some interest in assisting with project funding for this project.

As of June 1st, 2005, five tanks have been installed under the auspices of this project, one in each fire district (Strawberry Valley, Camptonville, Browns Valley, Smartville, and Oregon House). These tanks were funded through a Fire Safe Council Grant. A continued effort will be made to install a second tank in each district as funding becomes available.

25 YUBA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ROADSIDE CLEARING PLAN

Actions involved in the proposed project:

Roads side clearance projects that will benefit the various foothill community's fire protection and traffic safety have been identified by the cooperative efforts of CDF, USFS, and the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council. Through a system of prioritization and cooperation the Yuba County Department of Public Works (YCDPW) will direct their roadside clearing efforts to those roads identified as having the greatest potential for improving fire safety, evacuation, egress, and access.

Event 1: A priority list of roads will be provided to the YCDPW. They will then direct their roadside clearance crews to direct their efforts on the roads based on the established priorities. Under the current plan, it is anticipated that twelve to fifteen miles will be accomplished this coming fiscal year and there are a total of eighty-eight miles identified for treatment. **This portion of the project has been completed.**

Initial funding for this program was accomplished through Proposition 204 funds through the Fire Safe Council. Now that those funds have been expended YCDPW is continuing the program in coming fiscal years with partial funding through HR 2389 Title III funds and general gas tax revenues. The continuance of the funds is uncertain so currently the planning extends for the next five years. However, if additional funds become available they will be directed to the program and the list of roads may be expanded.

Justification: This project will result in a direct reduction of the fire hazard to the homes immediately adjacent to the identified roads and will provide enhanced protection to the communities of Dobbins – Oregon House, Brownsville, Challenge, Loma Rica and many more.

Potential Stakeholders to participate in Cost Sharing to Fund the Project:

- Yuba County
- Local Service Groups
- U.S. Forest Service
- Feather River Air Management District
- Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council

Estimated project cost is **\$950,000**. As of June 1, 2004, over \$200,000 had been spent on the project, the majority of which came from Prop 204. Last year \$58,500 was contributed from HR 2389 funds and \$30,000 from gas tax revenues for a total of \$88,500. Updated totals were not available at the time of publishing of this year's plan.

The program had been utilizing California Youth Authority crews from the Washington Ridge Conservation Camp to assist with the labor involved in this project. With this winter's removal of CYA crews from Washington Ridge, this program has been placed on hold. It is anticipated that the project work can resume once the transition from CYA to CDC (Calif. Dept. of Corrections) is completed at Washington Ridge.

26 Desired Future Condition

The population growth in the project areas will set the guidelines for the respective desired future conditions. Currently, the goal is to establish buffers for a minimum of thirty feet around each structure that resemble a Fuel Model 8 with an additional buffer similar to a Fuel Model 9 for another seventy feet. This would provide an overall buffer of one hundred feet around each structure where fire behavior would be significantly reduced due to the lack of ground fuels. Currently, as few as ten percent of the homes within the project areas meet the FireSafe standards. As that number approaches 100 percent, a large fuel reduction area will be created. This will ultimately result in an overall decrease in fire behavior in these areas; thereby, improving the fire services ability to extinguish the fires in the initial attack stages.

The goal of the roadside fuel reduction areas is to improve ingress and egress for the communities and develop defensible locations to be used by fire suppression resources to suppress oncoming wildfires. Any fuel break by itself will NOT stop a wildfire. It is a location where the fuel has been modified to increase the probability of success for fire suppression activities. Ground resources can use the location for direct attack or firing out. Air resources can use the location for fire retardant drops. (see Appendix D for an example shaded fuel break prescription.)

Action Plan

Currently all of the priority projects identified in this plan are in some stage of implementation. The Placer County Projects have received over \$600,000 funding